



This Week's Newsmakers

Nov. 12 – Nov. 19, 2010

Prepared by University Communications

Top Stories

Less Spending for National Security

The New York Times

Gordon Adams, professor of foreign policy, led a team that prepared the Bipartisan Policy Center's military spending recommendations for its new report aiming to address the U.S. deficit. Adams discussed his team's recommendations, which included a 5-year freeze on Pentagon spending, with the [New York Times](#), acknowledging it would not be easy. Adams also spoke to [NPR.org](#) about Democrats losing their top defense and military voices on the Hill. (11/12, 11/17)

Additional Features

Blasphemy Law Prevents Free Speech in Pakistan



During a 7-minute interview segment on [CNN International](#), **Akbar Ahmed**, chair of Islamic studies, discussed a case of blasphemy against a Pakistani Christian woman sentenced to death for comments about the Prophet Mohammed. "These cases appear again and again, unfortunately, targeting the Christian minority," Ahmed explained, saying blasphemy law often compromises Pakistani citizens' right to free speech. (11/18)

Washington Project for the Arts at the AU Museum

The Washington Post

The [Washington Post](#) ran a glowing review of *Catalyst: 35 Years of Washington Project for the Arts*, now at the **American University Museum**. "It is the role of nonprofit alternatives such as WPA to act as a catalyst - and a home - for art that might otherwise slip between those cracks," wrote critic Michael O'Sullivan about WPA's role in promoting art that is not shown in D.C. museums and galleries. The *Post* also featured an [image gallery](#) and a [sidebar](#) article about Alberto Gaitan whose work is in *Catalyst*. (11/18)

Reinventing Yourself in Journalism



A [Huffington Post](#) column by AU alumna Janet Janijigian highlighted a **School of Communication** event about staying ahead of technology in journalism—moderated by SOC alumna and WRC-NBC4 anchor Wendy Reiger. "Larry Kirkman, Dean of the School of Communication, has encouraged and cultivated a broad spectrum of professors, alums and students attracting new talent and exciting educational programs and opportunities, Yes, the AU experience did change my life and my career in news—mine and many others," wrote Janijigian. (11/15)

The Democratic Lame Duck Agenda



James Thurber, director of the Center for Congressional and Presidential Studies, appeared on [NBC Nightly News](#) to discuss President Obama's new agenda with a Republican led Congress. "He's trying to play the space in the middle. There's nobody in the middle and it's going to be very hard for him," he said. Thurber also appeared on [PBS NewsHour](#) to discuss the rise of government earmarks and in an interview with [Gannett](#), he said Democratic leadership needs to have "someone who is tough and knows the media and knows how to react." (11/12, 11/16 11/17)

Quotes

Top Investors Share Their Picks

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL. Gerald Martin, professor of finance, and the [Wall Street Journal](#) discussed Warren Buffett's Berkshire Hathaway Inc. taking a new \$52 million stake in Bank of New York Mellon Corp. and the retirement of Buffett's Berkshire colleague Lou Simpson. "It appears to be a changing of the guard," Martin said. "It's interesting timing. It coincides with Lou leaving and the new guy coming on." (11/16)

Other Generations Weary of Baby Boomers



[USA Today](#) asked **Leonard Steinhorn**, professor of public communication, about newer generations' feelings about baby boomers. "Boomers have certainly sucked up a lot of cultural oxygen. They changed America in deep and profound ways," he said. "It's natural for other generations to think they didn't get their time in the sun." (11/17)

Health Care Reform under Attack



Stephen Vladeck, professor of law, appeared on [CNN's Situation Room](#) to discuss the health care reform debate between the federal government and state legislatures. He said the question lies in whether the federal government can require consumers to buy health care or tax those who do not. "The states, the challengers, have to convince the courts that it's unconstitutional on both sides," said Vladeck. (11/12)

Presidents Get Less Personal Time



[Newsweek](#) interviewed **Allan Lichtman**, professor of history, about how presidential responsibilities have increased, leaving the president less personal time. "Lincoln had time to think," Lichtman said. "That kind of downtime just doesn't exist anymore." (11/13)